

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. C. P. RONEY, LATE OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES.—We are glad to hear that a gratifying testimonial of respect has been presented by the officers and clerks of the Eastern Counties Railway, to Mr. C. P. Roney, the late efficient secretary of the company, in recognition of the uniform kindness which he displayed towards them during the period of his secretaryship to the company, and as a manifestation of the high esteem in which they held him. The testimonial consisted of a very elegant silver dessert service, comprising a handsome central ornament, fittingly inscribed, with two unique fruit-baskets. Never was a tribute better deserved.

BLOTS.—"G. H." would draw attention to the dilapidated houses in Skinner-street, Snow-hill, and the vacant piece of ground at the corner of Newgate-street. The houses in Skinner-street have been so long in their present state that it appears as if no change would take place, but that they are to be left as emblems of corruption and decay. There are other houses in the same condition in Stamford-street.

TRADE IN BIRMINGHAM.—The general trade is in a healthy condition. Some branches are more than ordinarily busy, more particularly the lockmakers, copper, tube, and gas-fitting businesses. The lock manufacture is extraordinarily active. The same may be said of other branches of staple manufactures. Generally, according to the *Times*, the manufacturers of the town are making for existing orders, a sure proof that the demand is equal to the supply. In brassfoundry, the Birmingham manufacturers begin to feel beneficial effects from the Great Exhibition. It is not, however, expected that much advantage to its peculiar trades will be experienced until after the receipt of winter orders, which, hitherto, the Exhibition has had the effect of retarding.

INDESTRUCTIBLE INK.—Take shell-lac 4 parts by weight, borax 2 parts, soft water 36 parts. Boil in a close vessel till dissolved: then filter, and take of gum arabic 2 parts, soft water 4 parts. Dissolve and mix the two solutions together, and boil for five minutes as before, occasionally stirring to promote their union. When cold, add a sufficient quantity of finely powdered indigo or lampblack, according to the colour required: lastly, let it stand for two or three hours, until the coarser powder has subsided, and bottle for use. Use this fluid with a clean pen, and keep it in a glass or earthen inkstand, as many substances will decompose it in a liquid state. When dry it will resist the action of water, oil, turpentine, alcohol, diluted sulphuric acid, diluted hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid, chlorine, the caustic alkalis, and the alkaline earths. This fluid, made in quantity, will cost about two shillings a gallon.

—*Chemical Record.*

STEAM POWER AT DISTANCE.—A new engine has been set to work at St. Helen's, Auckland colliery. The boiler is placed upon the surface, and the steam pipes are taken down the shaft, a depth of eighty fathoms, and then down an inclined plane about 1,050 yards, making the total distance from the boilers to the engine upwards of 1,200 yards, and the perpendicular depth about 882 feet. The engine can lift and force about 300 gallons per minute up the incline plane, length as stated above, and perpendicular height 342 feet.

THE METROPOLITAN SEWERS.—The new Act to continue and amend the Metropolitan Sewers Act has been printed. Her Majesty may appoint one of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers to be chairman during her pleasure, and another to be deputy chairman. The salary of the chairman is not to exceed 1,000*l.* a year. The chairman or deputy is to preside at the court of sewers. Two commissioners (one being the chairman or deputy) to be a quorum, except in certain matters. No rates are to be made or mortgages authorised, except by the sanction of at least six commissioners. The Metropolitan Sewers Act, which would have expired, are, with the present Act, to continue in force another year. The first meeting under the amended Act (14 & 15 Vict. cap. 75) was held at Greek-street on Friday in last week, Mr. E. Lawes, barrister-at-law, the newly appointed chair-

man, in the chair. Mr. Lawes stated that it was his intention to give his personal attendance daily at the office, that he might furnish information to any one desiring or requiring it as to the working of the commission. It was the anxious desire of the commissioners, he said, to promote the public interests as to drainage as far as possible, consistent with economy. They would now be able to hold their courts in various localities to suit the convenience of parties attending. Various works and payments for works done were then ordered, and some short-lease-holders were informed that the expense of drainage to their houses would probably be extended over thirty years, and made payable by the leaseholders in possession during the whole period.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH.—Sir: Being the person who called the attention of the Archaeological Institute to the destruction of the Hagioscopes at Bridgewater, I presume I am one of those *lads* to whom your correspondent, "W. H. B.," alludes as drawing conclusions from a "hasty visit and a superficial survey of work in a half-finished state." Having mentioned the facts to the Institute, I shall not now recapitulate them, but simply state that I have known Bridgewater Church nearly forty years, and for great part of that time have turned my attention to ecclesiastical architecture: I may therefore, I should suppose, form and express an opinion upon the subject without any great presumption, though undoubtedly it is very possible that my opinion may be wrong. And it would certainly be a very uncommon, though I should think undesirable, privilege, if the works of architects were to be held sacred from all but professional criticism. —F. WARRE, Secretary to the Somerset Archaeological and Nat. Hist. Society. Vicarage, Bishops Lydeard.

THE HOLY LAND, AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL.—Messrs. Warren, Bonomi, and Fahey, the painters of this very beautiful diorama, have greatly increased its interest and value by adding to the exhibition a party of Syrians,—the Syro-Lebanon company,—who have just arrived in this country, to illustrate the manners and customs of their own. The party consists of fourteen persons, including ladies and boys, and they succeed in conveying a most complete idea of Eastern life. The interpreter has much quiet humour, and the hunchback story-teller, in the coffee-shop, takes one back to the "Arabian Nights," and makes one more firmly convinced than ever of the truth of every word of these charming tales. The exhibition must not be viewed as a theatrical entertainment, but as a quiet genuine illustration of the manners of an interesting race of people, and should be seen by everyone.

INSTITUTION OF BUILDERS' FOREMEN.—On Wednesday evening last a further proof of the benefits which may result from this Institution was realised by the election of an aged member to the benefits of the provident fund, viz., William Oyston, many years a foreman of masons with several eminent builders, but now, through age and infirmities, incapacitated. The board of directors for managing the funds have granted the sum of six shillings per week. This is the third person receiving a similar sum from the society, for the means of effecting which the members feel a great obligation to their friends and subscribers.

ACCIDENT WITH SCAFFOLDING AT LEEDS.—**RESPONSIBILITY.**—The *Wakefield Journal* tells of a sad accident at the works now in progress at Harewood, for the purpose of supplying the town of Leeds with water from the river Warfe. It appears that Mr. James Bray, the contractor for the works, had erected a scaffolding about 20 feet high, to support a setting crane on a moveable beam. The stone works necessary for the building of the foundation of the forcing-pump, was sublet to Joseph and Thomas Wilson. An inlet or excavation from the river to the building was in the course of being dug below the bottom of one of the props of the scaffolding. The prop had originally been let about 3 feet 3 inches into the ground, but one side of it was bared by the excavation on the edge of which it rested. The beams along the top of the

scaffolding had become uneven, and Thomas Wilson was told that they should be repaired before any more large stones were lifted, and about half-past one o'clock he was ordered by Mr. Bray not to use the crane until the prop near the excavation was shored up. About half-past two o'clock Thomas Wilson, with another man, was guiding a stone weighing upwards of a ton, which was being carried by the travelling beam to its place, when suddenly the weight caused the gravel forming the foundation of the prop to slip, and snapped a beam asunder, letting down one end of the travelling beam. Two men were unfortunately killed. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, in each case, against Thomas Wilson, the jury adding, that they considered that Mr. Bray and his superintendent were highly blameable in not seeing their orders for the repairs of the scaffolding carried out, for the better protection of the workmen.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS.—Extract from a Report of the Charitable Institutions of the parish of Kingston:—"The Vicar takes this opportunity to remind the parishioners of a most excellent custom often observed by parties who are desirous to erect a memorial to their deceased friends, instead of the common practice of erecting tombs in the churchyard, or monuments in the church: the reference is to memorial windows of stained glass being placed in the church. By so doing, two objects are gained, viz., the church is beautified, and the desire of the friends of the deceased is most sacredly carried out. The Vicar begs to offer every encouragement to the parishioners and others who may be desirous to avail themselves of this mode to perpetuate the memory of their departed friends, considering as he does, that the expense would be little more, if any, than the erection of a monument, or a tomb in the churchyard."

PATENT-LAWS AND POOR INVENTORS.—In reference to the sad fate of the late attempt at Patent Reform, Mr. F. W. Campin, in a communication to the *Morning Herald*, says, "At first sight it might appear that nothing could be done until the commencement of the next Session of Parliament, but this is not so: the evil may be considerably lessened by the adoption of measures which are within the power of the Government, without waiting for the formal exercise of the power of Parliament. Thus a very large portion (about two-thirds) of the patent fees and duties are payable to the Consolidated Fund, the levying of which might be suspended by an order in council, and thus inventors might at once be relieved to a considerable extent, and as time is to these persons equivalent to money, they would rather take an instalment of 10*s.* in the pound now than wait a year for a much larger dividend." The Consolidated Fund itself, too, we should think, had better take such an instalment as none at all, which, in the present uncertain state of matters, is but too likely to be the case, even as to those able to pay; for who will be fools enough to take out expensive patents at present, unless under peculiar circumstances?

IMPROVE THE STREETS.—The old house at the corner of John-street, Pall Mall, is now, I observe, in course of destruction. If this house is to be rebuilt an opportunity will be lost of widening that narrow and dangerous passage from St. James's-square to Pall Mall, which may not occur again for many years.

A READER.

WIDE ESTIMATING.—Sir, we beg to hand you a list of very wide estimates for two shop fronts, &c., at Blenheim-terrace, Regent's park:—

Parkin	£276 0
Pritchard and Sons ..	269 0
Johnson and Pask ..	248 0
Langmead	215 0
Taylor	209 0
Collins	187 0
Williams	180 0
Knowles	164 10
Wood	120 0

A. & B.

. We have received a dozen such recently, but cannot now insert them.